



A Joint Country Programme by FAO, IFAD, UNWOMEN and WFP in partnership with the Government of Niger through the Ministry of Agriculture, Initiative I3N, Ministry of livestock, Ministry of population, advancement of women and protection of children

Country Programme Proposal

<i>Country:</i>	Niger
<i>Project Title:</i>	Accelerating Progress Towards Economic Empowerment of Rural Women in Niger (RWEE)
<i>Total budget requested</i>	US\$..... 5 116 381,55
<i>Beneficiaries to be assisted with the contribution</i>	Direct Beneficiaries : 25200 = 16800 Rural Women + 8400 rural men Indirect Beneficiaries: 252 000=168 000 Women + 84000 men
<i>Duration of project:</i>	November 2012 – October 31, 2017

1. Brief Background Information

In November 2012 a Concept Note was signed by all four agencies in Niger as a result of a consultative workshop held in Niamey (*Note Conceptual Programme Conjoint Niger*). This document illustrates the added value and strengths of each agency, synergies between different activities, and principles of collaboration, program delivery, roles and responsibilities and description of the activities.

Since the beginning, the process of the JP in Niger has been fully participatory. All four participating UN-Agencies and relevant Government Ministries and rural communities have shown commitment and willingness for the process to succeed. The Government has been involved since the beginning of the process and participates in the design and follow-up of the JP.

1.Sub-program1: Equitable promotion of women’s situation and social position; Sub-program 2: Equitable promotion of women and men’s potential and position within the household and market economies; Sub-program3: Strengthening the effective application of the rights of women and girls, of the fight against gender-based violence and equitable participation of women and men in managing power; Sub-program 4: Strengthening the intervention capacities of the institutional framework to implement the National Gender Policy (NGP), so as to achieve improved harmonization and synergy in gender interventions. –

3. Justification for the intervention

Isolated State in the Sahel region, Niger has a rural sector which constitutes the first branch of industry in the national economy with a contribution to the formation of the country's GDP of about 41,69%. The population of Niger is estimated at 17,129,076 habitants (RGPH 2012) with a rate of increase in 3, 3%. The women, who account for 50,1% of this population live in majority in rural areas (78, 3%).

In the particular context of Niger, factors such as climate change, drought-related contingencies, food and nutrition crises, regular floods, locust invasions, large influx of refugees, create a difficult environment that threatens rural people's livelihoods.

In addition to this, rural women and girls face specific constraints that hamper their well-being and socio-economic potential (the 4 out of 5 poor people are women). These constraints include: illiteracy (literacy rate for those aged 15 and above (that is, who can read and write) is 19.1% (male: 27.3%; female: 11% (2015)), very high fertility rates (index of fruitfulness is 7, 6 children per woman – (EDSN 2012), limited access to productive resources (land, agricultural inputs, finance and credit, extension services, and technology); weak access, to public services, social protection, information, innovations and local and national markets and institutions due to entrenched cultural norms and security challenges.

Women are over-burdened with household chores (preparation of the meals, drudgery of collecting wood and water, transformation of agricultural produce, pastoral work, and education of the children), petty trading, taking care of the sick and elderly, the weight of the traditions and the habits. Traditional education legitimates disparities between men and women through cultural patterns that influence common perception to accept this social construct. As regards gender equity, Niger was classified in 2014 as a country presenting high levels of gender discrimination (SIGI-social institutions and gender index).

This is the reason why the JP in Niger puts particular emphasis on rural women's empowerment, poverty reduction, food and nutrition security, resilience, climate change adaptation, social mobilization and community development. Activities in these areas appear to be a priority to break the vicious circle of shocks and humanitarian crises, as well as their induced effects on the precarious living conditions of the population.

This program is perfectly aligned with the development objectives of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF-2014-2018) of Niger¹, in particular with its three cross-cutting themes and with the Thematic Area 1 (resilience), 2 (social development and human capital) and 3 (governance, peace and security). In addition, the JP activities will contribute to the process of the MDG Acceleration Framework (MAF) which in Niger is oriented towards achieving food and nutrition security.

By enhancing the agricultural productivity of rural communities, improving their food and nutrition security and ensuring rural women and men's access to resources, information and services, the JP makes an important contribution to the work carried out by the System of the United Nations (SNU) in Niger.

The interventions of the JP are also in line with the development objectives of the Government of Niger, notably the 3N Initiative ("*Les Nigériens Nourissent les Nigériens*"). The Government has introduced its 3N Initiative in 2011 to increase the country's resilience to food crises and reduce poverty through agricultural reform. Within this framework, the approach of the "communes de convergence" has been developed to accelerate the achievement of the MDGs. According to this approach development actors should conduct complementary activities in the poorest geographical areas to reduce vulnerability, maximize impact and

¹ United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF-2014-2018), http://planipolis.iiep.unesco.org/upload/Niger/Niger_UNDAF-2014-2018.pdf

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Writing up of the regulations of the committees				
Development of terms of reference of national coordinator and start recruitment process				
Allocation of Norway funds received by agency and the best way to use them in order to have a visible and lasting impact				
Design of a framework for concrete synergies between all activities emphasizing the need for tangible results				
Elaboration of the work plan for the year 2015				
2012- 2015				
Activity Description	Place of implementation	Number of beneficiaries (women/men)	Activity cost In USD	Lead Agency
<p>Strengthening capacities in terms of nutrition to 30 clubs Dimitra's leaders who will stimulate the discussions into their clubs and ensure a good understanding of basics nutrition, and malnutrition, its consequences and the actions to prevent it.</p> <p>In addition, 25 participatory culinary sessions using local ingredients will be held in the 5 villages to make the theory into practice.</p>	<p>Falwel, Teguize Koir, Kokoukou, Deytagui Yamba, Mallam Koir,</p>	<p>5 villages → 6 clubs → 900 membres *7= 6 300 B. directs (4200 femmes, 2100 hommes) → *10 = 63 000 B. Indirects</p>		<p>FAO</p>
<p>Initial Forum with the Dimitra Clubs, the other stakeholders, POs, local NGO, representatives of ministries and technical partners to launch the JP, create awareness on the JP and local ownership</p>	<p>Niamey, November 2012</p>	<p>All stakeholders and development partners</p>	<p>FAO-Dimitra</p>	<p>FAO</p>
<p>Social mobilization and community governance: Set-up, support and monitoring of Dimitra Community listeners' clubs</p>	<p>Falwel, teguize Koir, Kokoukou, Deytagui Yamba, Mallam Koir, Tajae, El Kokia</p>	<p>Direct beneficiaries = 1,800 (900 women) Indirect beneficiaries = 7,000</p>		<p>FAO</p>

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	And Niamey			
2016-2017				
Outcome 1: Rural women have a food and nutrition security improved				
Indicators:				
- Increase the agricultural production of the farmers				
- improved nutrition within the family				
Output 1.1: Rural women have greater access to resources, assets and services essential for their food and nutrition security				
Indicator 1.1.1. Number of women who have access to information and participatory communication				
Indicator 1.1.2. Number of women who adopt improved nutrition practices				
Indicator 1.1.3. Number of women who adopt improved agricultural techniques				
Indicator 1.1.4. Number of women who have access to integrated service				
Indicator 1.1.5. Number of organizations of producers male and producers female who are reinforced				
Training and technical support on: i) Crop production ii) Animal health ii) Feeding of cattle.	Communes: Falwel , Djiratawa , Sokorbé G Amoumoune	5 villages per council area: 2 000 beneficiaries(1500women and 500 men	120000	IFAD
Social mobilization and community governance: Set-up, support and monitoring of Dimitra Community listeners' clubs to mobilize and sensitize rural populations on the various themes to be discussed	Council areas : Falwel, Djirataoua, Sokorbé et Guidan Amoumoune (Maradi and Dosso regions)	Direct beneficiaries = 25200 (16800women)	100000	FAO
		Indirect beneficiaries = 252000		
Distribution of improved seeds and/or rural micro-enterprises kits for conservation /preservation, transformation and commercialization of agro-sylvo-pastoral products.	Council areas: Falwel Djiratawa ; Sokorbé G Amoumoune	5 villages per Council area: 2 000 beneficiaires	100000	IFAD
Distribution of pastoral kits: small ruminants, vaccines and animal feed	Council areas: Falwel, Djiratawa,Sokorbé G Amoumoune	5 villages :council area: 250 beneficiaries per council-areas with a total of 1000 beneficiaries	320000	IFAD
Land rehabilitation via « Food assistance for Assets » (FFA)	Council area: Jiratawa (Maradi region) Elkokia Danja	952 households	605722	WFP

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